

## THE MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC RECREATION COMMISSION

August 21, 2007

The regular meeting of the Public Recreation Commission was held on August 21, 2007 at 4:00pm at the Main Office Board Room, with the following members present: Ms. Driehaus, and Messrs. Smith, Moeddel, and Fultz, with Ms. Driehaus presiding. Staff in attendance: Mmes. Simmons, Shannon, Cox, Barnes, Kazin, and Gutjahr and Messrs. Merrifield, Bigham, Koopman, Doerman, Celsor, Price, and LeConey.

### MINUTES

Mr. Fultz moved, seconded by Rev. Smith, to approve the minutes of the July 17, 2007 meeting as submitted.

Motion passed.

### BIDS

Mr. Fultz moved, seconded by Mr. Moeddel, to accept the lowest bids passing SBE, for the construction of the Otto Armleder Memorial Family Aquatic Center at Hirsch Recreation Center as follows: CBS Construction LLC Item #1 - \$1,540,000.00; Assignment Fee - \$15,510.00; Queen City Mechanicals, Inc. item #2 - \$198,300.00; A & M Contracting Inc. Item #3 - \$38,200.00; B & J Electric Co., inc. Item #4 - \$73,800.00; total bid \$1,865,710.00.

Motion passed.

### CORRESPONDENCE

#### Note Received from the "Tackle" Team

Kathy Lang and Ali Boren received a letter of thanks from Joanie and Greg of the "Tackle" Team for letting them use the pool for their picnic. This item was received for filing.

#### Article Regarding The Oakley Community Center

There was a newspaper article written describing the Oakley Community Center as "Oakley's best kept secret". This item was received for filing.

#### Article Regarding the Mt. Washington Seniors

The Mt. Washington Recreation Center took a group of seniors rafting on the Little Miami River. This item was received for filing.

Letter to Paul Brondhaver from Anthony Munoz

Paul Brondhaver of the Madisonville Center received a letter from Anthony Munoz along with a check in the amount of \$15,000.00 for the NFL Flag Football Program. Mr. Munoz stated that he is proud to partner with CRC and thanked Mr. Brondhaver for his commitment to making a difference in the Tri-State region. This item was received for filing.

E-mail from Lisa Kuhl

The Pleasant Ridge Community Center, Dr. Merrifield, and Doug Carlisle received an e-mail of thanks from Lisa Kuhl, parent of a summer day camp participant. This item was received for filing.

Letter from Doug Coates, Business Manager, of the Ohio River Way

Mr. Coates stated that the Ohio River Way, Inc. and Paddlefest are very pleased to offer support to the River Trek Program and enclosed a check in the amount of two hundred dollars. This item was received for filing.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Program Highlight – RiverTrek (Mary Cox)

Mary Cox thanked Commission for having the RiverTrek team attend the meeting. Ms. Cox informed that RiverTrek was held from the end of July through the first part of August. Members of the RiverTrek team were present to give a short history of the program. A continuing slide show of RiverTrek was presented during the reports.

Dale Doerman stated that about 12 years ago he and Mark Celsor talked about taking some kids down the Little Miami River for about a week. They approached Gary Morgan of Morgan Canoe with their idea and he thought it was great. The first year they started from up around Dayton, Ohio on rafts. Although it was rough the kids loved it and wanted to do it again the next year. The second year rafts were used too, then they went to canoes and the last few years they have been using canoes and kayaks. There are two trainings for RiverTrek; the first one at Adventure Outpost and the second one is actually on the river.

Mark Celsor informed Commissioners that he grew up playing in the woods and that a lot of our kids (participants) don't have that opportunity. He stated that they try to educate the kids on nature as they go along. The kids are fascinated by what they see and what they do on this trip.

Mary Cox introduced three staff who were with the RiverTrek participants 24/7; Mike Catron, Laura Benjamin, and Gary Price.

Ms. Benjamin works at the Mt. Auburn Community Center. Ms. Benjamin stated that the RiverTrek participants never get out on the river or in the woods and the first couple of days they are really disoriented; they miss their cell phones, their arms hurt, and they are tired. By day four they are enjoying themselves and they have gained confidence in what they are doing. Their desire to come back the next year is overwhelming. Ms. Benjamin stated that she is very happy to be a part of this program.

Gary Price is from the Pleasant Ridge Center. Mr. Price was introduced to RiverTrek in 2002. He said it has given him the opportunity to work with some other CRC employees. RiverTrek is a great experience and has given him the opportunity to grow, taught him to adjust his attitude, and made him a better person and employee.

Mary Cox explained that this has been her first year with RiverTrek. She has enjoyed the experience. Ms. Cox advised that RiverTrek is funded through a grant from the Dater Foundation.

Dr. Merrifield stated that it is a wonderful program and he would like to see it grow. Dale Doerman advised that next month Gary Price is going to apply for a grant for sailboats and training at Cowan Lake.

Rev. Smith asked about insurance coverage. Mr. Bigham advised that we are self-insured and that this program has been approved by risk management.

#### Information and Briefing Items

Dr. Merrifield distributed copies of CRC's previous organization chart and copies of the proposed organization chart that includes Michael Thomas as Recreation Superintendent. He explained that this allows the Superintendent to take charge of certain responsibilities. The position in the center of the chart is a proposed "future" position that would enable us to better serve our clients and

would allow Dr. Merrifield the opportunity to work closely with City Council, the Commission, and the Foundation. Dr. Merrifield would keep control of the Maintenance divisions.

The question was raised as to whether the Commission had to approve the appointment of Mr. Thomas to this new position. Mr. Bigham answered that he didn't believe so but he would check to make sure. It did have to be approved by the budget office.

Rev. Smith moved, seconded by Mr. Moeddel, to approve the Proposed Organization Chart as submitted.

Motion passed.

Dr. Merrifield reported on the Foundation Retreat that was held on Saturday, August 18<sup>th</sup>. The Foundation President, Jason Cohen, has taken on the responsibility of reworking the bylaws. The CRC Foundation members are interested in moving forward with appointing an Executive Director for the Foundation.

Dr. Merrifield stated that we are working with the city on a possible revised naming of facility agreement. This would enhance our opportunities for funding.

#### Youth Commission Member Report

Youth Commissioner, Tinisha Brewer, was not present. Mary Cox provided Commission a copy of the Youth Commission Report.

#### NEW BUSINESS

##### Request from Victory Neighborhood Services to Purchase Property at 870 Blair Avenue

Mr. Frank Moore, President of the Victory Neighborhood Services Agency Inc., was present to request that CRC sell the property at 870 Blair Avenue to the Victory Neighborhood Services Agency for a nominal fee. The VNSA has had a long term agreement with the City for this property and they have made renovations to the building at a cost of \$1.5 million. VNSA desires to acquire the facility so that it can serve as a financial asset for the needs of the organization.

Dr. Merrifield advised that he could not recommend selling an asset. Commission stated that they would like more information and history on this item. Mr. Moore informed Commission that he is not against the lease agreement but

would like to find a way that this situation would work for both parties involved. Commission asked Mr. Moore to bring a specific plan before them indicating how the situation could benefit VNSA and CRC. This item is tabled until further information is provided.

#### Request for Life Time Golf Privileges for Ester S. Smith

Rev. Smith moved, seconded by Mr. Fultz, to approve the request for life time golf privileges for Ester S. Smith.

Motion passed.

#### Reappointment of Three Members of the CRC Public Art Committee

Carolyn Gutjahr advised that Stephen Bonadies, Kate Kern, and Marcia Shortt have been very active on the CRC Public Art Committee and are interested in being reappointed.

Mr. Moeddel moved, seconded by Rev. Smith, to reappoint Stephen Bonadies, Kate Kern, and Marcia Shortt for a three year term (September 1, 2007 – August 31, 2010) to the CRC Public Art Committee.

Motion passed.

#### Reds Community Fund Agreement at Oskamp

Mr. Moeddel expressed concern that the agreement does not specifically state that the Cincinnati Recreation Commission owns this property. Mr. Bigam advised that he will add specific wordage to the Agreement under Section A stating CRC's ownership of the property.

Mr. Fultz moved, seconded by Rev. Smith, to approve the Reds Community Fund agreement at Oskamp pending the addition of wordage to specify the Cincinnati Recreation Commission's ownership of the property.

Motion passed.

#### 2008 Capital Budget

Mr. Bigam reviewed the 2008 Capital Budget with Commission. The Recreation Department's 2008-2012 All Funds Capital Budget update request totals \$34,465,700. Requests associated with current project accounts include an additional \$2.3 million need over the 2008 base budget target established by the Budget Department. These needs reflect the Recreation Department's 10 year plan. The existing capital accounts include recreation centers, outdoor facilities, citywide athletic facilities and compliance with ADA. An annual need

was arrived at by matching the current levels of Capital Improvement Plan Funding against an annual amount required to bring the program to an adequate standard or level of funding. Departmental Funding priorities reflect critical needs identified with the Recreation Commission's 10 year capital improvement priority directive.

Mr. Fultz moved, seconded by Rev. Smith, to approve the 2008 Capital Budget as submitted.

Motion passed.

#### 2008 Operating Budget

Mr. Bigham presented the 2008 Operating Budget to Commission. Council is asking for a 5% budget cut across the board except for Police and Fire. We have 24 people eligible for the early retirement incentive and are projecting 21 to take early retirement. Council wants to eliminate these positions. This would be about 10% of our full time work force. We can not do this.

Mr. Moeddel moved, seconded by Mr. Fultz, to approve the 2008 Operating Budget as submitted.

Motion passed

#### Amendment to Showboat Contract with CYPT

Tim Perrino was present to explain the request to amend the Showboat Contract with The Cincinnati Young People's Theatre. The existing contract requires CYPT to produce 6 shows. CRC and CYPT mutually agree to reduce the requirement to 5 shows to allow CRC to coordinate the Flying Pig Marathon with a lot less logistical problems. At that time of year the Showboat's attendance is low and the weather is undependable. It will not impact their revenue too much and will help us host the national event with more flexibility.

Mr. Fultz moved, seconded by Rev. Smith, to approve the amendment to the Showboat Contract with CYPT.

Motion passed.

#### Cincinnati Junior Rowers Club Agreement

Kathy Shannon advised that the Cincinnati Junior Rowers Club (CJRC) will pay CRC \$550/month for exclusive use of the Rowing and Fitness Center between the months of September 1, 2007 thru May 1, 2008. CJRC will be responsible for any and all damage to any City equipment and/or the facility.

They will have a representative over the age of 21 at the facility during operating hours. The City shall provide routine facility maintenance for the rowing tank and equipment owned by the City. CJRC will notify City staff to request maintenance. The City will be responsible for all utilities. Ms. Driehaus asked Ms. Shannon if CRC broke even on this agreement and Ms. Shannon assured that we did.

Rev. Smith moved, seconded by Mr. Fultz, to approve the Cincinnati Junior Rowers Club Agreement as submitted.

Motion passed.

#### Golf Advisory Council Bylaws Revision

The Golf Advisory Council Bylaws Revision agenda item was tabled until the September meeting at which time Rob Williams will be present to review.

#### Field Trips

Rev. Smith moved, seconded by Mr. Moeddel, to approve the Field Trip Requests as submitted.

Motion passed.

#### COMMISSION MEETING

The next meeting of the Public Recreation Commission will be held on Tuesday, September 18, 2007 at 4:00pm at the Waterfront Administration Office – 795 East Pete Rose Way (02).

Meeting Adjourned.

---

Denise M. Driehaus, President

---

Norman C. Merrifield, Ed. D., Director

/kss